

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

LDWSF
12.3.54 vs
01/07/87

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

1. TITLE Pioneer	2. CONTROL NUMBER 86-X-4-4 #6 34W
3. PERIOD COVERED	4. REPORTING OFFICE Seattle

SYNOPSIS:

Observations on June 26, 1986

Reference is made to ROI's 86-X-4-4 #1 and #2 reporting possible violations of the Clean Water Act by Pioneer Construction Materials Co. through discharges of wastewater into the Duwamish River in an area designated as Slip #2.

On June 26, 1986 S/A's Mann and Hattwig conducted a surveillance at the concrete plant identified above. S/A Hattwig observed a discharge of brown liquid from an open drain down the bank of the waterway adjacent to Pioneer. The brown liquid was flowing as a steady stream from an area next to a screw-like machine and entering the waterway causing discoloration and foaming on the surface. During this period of time a number of cement trucks, some of them marked Glacier Sand & Gravel, and some of them marked Pioneer Sand & Gravel, were being washed down. The observation took place from the opposite side of the waterway from a public access area previously occupied by Alaska Freight Co. Between 3:30 PM and 3:55 PM, S/A Hattwig drove through the area a number of times and the flow of the brown liquid was visible on each occasion.

At approximately 3:55 PM S/A Mann observed that the large water tank located on the Pioneer property was overflowing. S/A Mann witnessed a worker in a yellow hardhat operate a valve by the water tank which was overflowing. The worker operated this valve three times while standing there and each time the flow of the brown liquid through the open drain into the Duwamish increased significantly. S/A Mann also observed that the liquid was brown in color and foaming when it hit the water in the waterway.

At approximately 4:05 PM S/A's Hattwig and Mann were parked in their vehicle in front of the former Alaska Freight Co. and observed the same worker in the yellow hardhat operate a valve along the horizontal pipe connected to the water tank. This valve was operated with a lever and after this individual operated the valve the flow of brown liquid into the waterway increased significantly. After having opened this valve the worker in the yellow hardhat entered a large skiploader and drove off toward the west end of the property.

During the time from 4:05 PM to 4:25 PM the S/A's observed cement trucks being washed in that work area. At approximately 4:25 PM the large tank overflowed again and a brown foamy substance could be observed running down the sides. A worker wearing a green hardhat and yellow shirt started to operate a valve at the bottom of the tank and the overflow stopped. However, the increase of liquid being discharged through the open drain increased significantly.

REPORT MADE BY S/A Gerd Hattwig	DATE 1/7/87
REVIEWING OFFICIAL SAIC Dixon McClary	DATE 1/7/87

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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CONTINUED:

The worker wearing the green hardhat and yellow shirt was a white male, 165 lbs., 25 to 35 years old, mustache, dark hair-collar length. At approximately 4:30 PM this individual with the green hardhat was observed operating yet another valve and then was seen hosing down material with a high pressure water hose. He then operated two valves which he operated with a lever-type handle. Each time the flow of brown liquid through the open drain increased significantly. Subsequent to this action and some additional hosing down of the area with a high pressure water hose, this individual was seen heading toward the office building on the west part of the facility. At approximately 4:37 PM a large cement truck backed up to the truck washing area. This truck was identified by a number at the rear of the cab. The number was 74863. The truck was observed taking on brownish dark water and after some period of time discharging what appeared to be a darker brown liquid substance out of the back of the mixing tank. The individual operating the truck was wearing a red hardhat and blue overalls. The truck was blue and red in color. Another truck also pulled up during the observation time and took on a brownish looking water and then discharged the apparent washout leftovers onto the ground. During the same period of time a blue-green truck backed up to what appeared to be a tank with a large screw rotating within it. This cement truck discharged a brownish watery substance which seemed to contain some sand and gravel into the tank. At approximately 4:45 PM this activity by the blue/green cement truck stopped.

At approximately 4:45 PM S/A's Hattwig and Mann drove along the edge of the waterway opposite from Pioneer. At that time the agents observed a discharge of a brownish liquid substance from a second point source. The discharge originated out of the cement wall adjacent to the water tank described earlier. The source of this discharge was partially obscured by a steel plate which appeared to be like an anchor in the cement wall. The flow from behind this pipe was quite strong as water was gushing all around it. This discharge was not observed on prior occasions. At approximately 4:55 PM the surveillance by S/A's Hattwig and Mann was terminated at Pioneer. At that time both discharge points, the open drain and the drain out of the cement wall, were discharging a brownish liquid.